

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2004. After entry of this amendment, claims 1,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18 will be pending in the Application. Claims 2, 7 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 1,6,12,13,15 have been amended, and claims 16-18 have been added. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the remarks made below.

2. The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Easy Craps. The Examiner objected to claims 2,6 and 7 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and further stated that none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teaches clearing all wagers in the primary, second and third wagering areas when the sum total of the rolled dice is a seven. The Applicant agrees with that assessment and has amended independent claim 1 accordingly. The Applicant does not believe that the language of claim 6 is necessary to distinguish over the prior art because the present invention deviates from the prior art once the wagers are lost and cleared after a seven is rolled. The step of receiving successive wagers in the primary area and selecting a new, successive shorter at random is an after effect once the roll of the dice is a seven. Therefore, the Applicant has a right to claim his invention as broadly as possible, and it is believed that claim 1 now sets forth an invention that is distinguishable over the cited prior art. Since the other dependent claims 2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11, and 12 dependent from what is believed to be an allowable claim 1, they too should be considered allowable by virtue of their dependence.

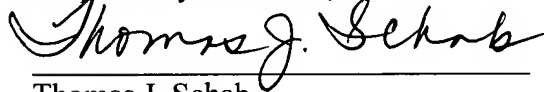
Claims 13,14, were also rejected by the Examiner based upon the Easy Craps prior art. However, the Applicant amended claim 13 to incorporate the allowable subject matter found within claim 1, therefore, it is believed that claim 13 should also be considered allowable too for the same reasons as stated above.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Easy Craps as applied to claim 1 and in view of Webb, which was said to teach video gaming machines that would embody the Easy Craps concepts. The Applicant has amended claim 15 to incorporate the language referring to clearing all wagers within the first, second and third wagering areas, which the examiner cited as necessary to distinguish over the prior art. Therefore, it is now believed that claim 15 is now allowable, as are new claims 16-18, which by virtue of their dependence upon allowable claim 15, would be allowable too.

3. Conclusion

Applicant has amended the application to place it in a condition of allowance. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of this application, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at 708-420-1971.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Schab
Reg. No. 35,908

Date: December 20, 2004

Law Offices of Thomas J. Schab
247 Ruth St.
Calumet City, IL 60409